Status of Armed Forces (special powers) Act in view of POTO enforcement

3085. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for enacting POTO in place of TADA;

(b) whether the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act now cease to operate if POTO is enforced; and

(c) if not, the reasons for enforcing two special Acts in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 seeks to provide a legal framework to effectively deal with terrorism related offences.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The scope of Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 is different from the scope of Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958 which applies to the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Involvement of bureaucrats in Arms Licence Racket

3086. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has urged the Government to formulate a clear cut policy on the issuance of arms licences by State Governments in view of growth of an inter-State arms licence racket;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) if so, whether the involvement of top bureaucrats in State Governments in issuing arms licences have come to light by CBI recently; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to information received from CBI, they have registered four cases under Section 25 of Arms Act, 1959 against arms dealers of Jammu, Delhi, Faridabad and Panipat and certain officials in Jammu, Faridabad and Gurgaon etc. The investigations are in progress.

Display of Netaji's belongings

3087. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item "Netaji's belongings to be displayed" published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th November, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Netaji was in India upto September, 1985, as published in the newspaper; and

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the original copy of Bangladesh constitution (that came into existence in 1971) is one of the items to be displayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry which has been appointed to inquire into the circumstances leading to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose held its sitting at Faizabad, U.P., from 26th to 29th November, 2001 during which it inspected the articles and documents allegedly of "Gumnami Baba" kept in the custody of the District Magistrate, Faizabad and segregated different articles and documents (including a copy of the Bangladesh constitution) out of them for close scrutiny thereof.

At this stage no further comments can be given on the said news-item.

Pak nationals in Rajasthan

3088. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-items "Pak national heads Rajasthan Civic body", published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th November, 2001;